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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
SOUTHWESTERN REGION

ADDRESS REPLY TO
REGIONAL FORESTER
AND REFER TO

Post Office Building
Albuquerque, New Mexico

November 3, 1949

S
CONTROL
Insect
General

FOREST INSECT LABORATORY
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO
NOV - 7 1949
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY & PLANT
QUARANTINE U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Dr. N. D. Wygant
Entomologist in Charge
233 Forestry Bldg., Colo. A & M
Fort Collins, Colorado

Dear Dr. Wygant:

We appreciate the chance to review the draft of Dr. Wilford's report covering his recent survey of Region 3 insect conditions. Our comments are as follows:

A. Survey of Pine Sawfly on the Cibola

It is encouraging to learn that this infestation will probably subside next season. We agree that there is no apparent need for planning artificial control at this time. We are requesting the Cibola to set up a schedule of periodic (monthly) examinations of this area beginning May 1 and continuing through September 1. Copies of the Cibola reports will be forwarded to your office.

B. Survey of Spruce Budworm on Carson, Santa Fe and Cibola

The infestation on Sandia Mountain is, to our thinking, the most serious insect problem in the Region. This area is heavily used for recreation, practically year-round, by residents of Albuquerque (pop. 120,000) and a multitude of tourists. Annual recreation use exceeds 125,000 man-days. A barkbeetle epidemic in this area would be a calamity. General public reaction to such an incident would be extremely unfavorable. The area which should be sprayed by aircraft next spring is somewhat larger than stated in the report. We would plan on covering about 4800 acres to insure full coverage. We had not realized that barkbeetle control is essential this winter. Probably some 40 acres, mainly around the ski area, should be covered. As our best guess, 250-350 trees would have to be treated. Due to

rough terrain, peeling and burning might be more feasible than spraying but we could be wrong on this. One advantage of felling would be in reducing the number of snags on the area.

We consider spruce budworm damage on the Santa Fe and Carson and on the Mt. Taylor Division of the Cibola to be of secondary importance, with the possible exception of the Tesuque area near Santa Fe where there is heavy recreation use and danger of a situation that will parallel the Sandia Mountain outbreak. While it is true that budworm damage is making inroads on our Christmas tree business in places, we have lived with this condition a long time now and we do not feel that impact on commercial values has been very great. If, in your opinion, spot treatment of localized budworm areas by mist blower is warranted we will go along with your recommendation. Perhaps, in the aggregate, budworm damage in the Mt. Taylor area, the Hyde Park area, the Jemez areas and scattered areas on the Carson, plus tent caterpillar damage on localized recreation areas too small to be aircraft-sprayed, would warrant the purchase of a mist blower by the Region to keep these situations in hand.

As a matter of interest, revenue from Christmas trees on the Cibola, Carson and Santa Fe for the past three fiscal years was as follows:

Christmas Tree Revenue by Forests
(includes commercial sales only)

Fiscal Year	Cibola	Carson	Santa Fe
1947	$226	$ 66	$ 1,155
1948	774	286	692
1949	694	572	1,151

C. Survey of Tent Caterpillar on Carson, Santa Fe and Cibola

We are surprised that in the summary of acreage needing control only 3,500 acres are listed for the Carson while some 19,150 are listed for the Santa Fe. Out of the estimated total of 28,000 infested acres on the Carson should we not plan on covering at least the 14,000 acres in the Rio Pueblo-Rio La Junta area? If we obtain a mist blower, we agree that it would be worthwhile to spray the estimated 700 infested acres on the Hondo drainage. On the Santa Fe we would favor treatment of the 8,000 acres on the Las Vegas District and mist blower treatment of the 100-acre Grass Mountain infestation on the Pecos District. The balance of the caterpillar infested areas on the Santa Fe and those in the Mt. Taylor Division of the Cibola will bear watching but, we think, are not of critical importance at this time.

3-N.D.Wygant-November 3, 1949

SUMMARY

In order of importance and priority we would recommend the following artificial control projects:

Aircraft Spray Jobs

1. 4,800 acres on Sandia Mountain (Cibola)
2. 14,000 acres on Rio Pueblo-Rio La Junta drainages (Carson)
3. 8,000 acres on the Las Vegas District (Santa Fe)

Mist Blower Jobs

1. 700 acres on Hondo Drainage (Carson
2. 100 acres on Grass Mtn. (Santa Fe)
3. 500 acres on Tesuque area (Santa Fe

Direct Control

1. Peel and burn bark of 250-350 trees on Sandia Mountain prior to April 1, 1950.

If we secure only one mist blower do you think the effective period for spraying would last long enough to catch the three jobs listed or would two blowers be needed?

It is hoped that these comments will be helpful. Do you have all maps and factual data needed? We will be interested in seeing your final report and recommendations. It is assumed that our report to the Chief Forester and request for special fund allotments will come after your final report is submitted to Washington.

Dr. Wilford's draft is herewith returned together with copy of a map of the Sandia Mountain infestation.

Very sincerely yours,

C. OTTO LINDH, Regional Forester

By: C. Allen Woodbury Acting

Enclosures